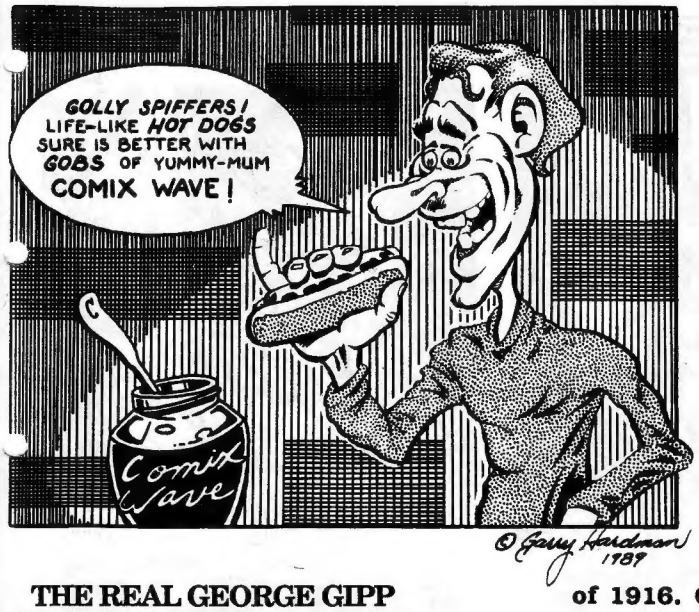
COMIX WAVE STRIKES AGAIN!



THE REAL GEORGE GIPP

How about an apology to the memory of George Gipp, the Notre Dame football player whose name has been stolen again and again by an ex-actor-cum-ex-president? When Coach Knute Rockne said *Let's win one for the Gipper* he sure as hell didn't have Ronald Reagan in mind. Time and again Reagan had to link himself with his superiors because his own record is so shabby.

George Gipp was born in 1895 in Laurium, Michigan. He was the son of Matthew Gipp, a Congregationalist minister. He played high school football at Calumet with Perce Wilcox, but never made the first string. He liked basketball better and played with the YMCA team. He was good enough at baseball to be signed by the Chicago White Sox just before he died, but he never lettered in baseball or basketball at Notre Dame. He never cared about such things, never tried for them. Francis Wallace said Gipp *just didn't seem to care much about anything, including fame when it came* (KNUTE ROCKNE, New York: Doubleday, 1960, p. 76). Gipp even wore his monogram sweater inside out, a fashion adopted by many of the other athletes.

George was a card player and a pool shark from early adolescence. He drove a cab for awhile after high school and got into Notre Dame on a baseball scholarship on the recommendation of Wilburt "Dolly" Gray, an Irish player who went on to the White Sox. Gipp was already 21 when he joined the freshman class of 1916. Coach Rockne saw him drop-kicking one afternoon and invited him to join the freshman squad. It was in a frosh game with Western Normal that Gipp kicked his 62 yard field goal, the second longest in the history of the game. Rockne said he had no doubt that Gipp *was going to be a world-beater, but a loner* (Jerry Brondfield. ROCKNE: THE COACH, THE MAN, THE LEGEND. New York: Random House, 1976. p. 87). Rockne had Gipp ape the style of Army's Elmer Oliphant. For Rockne, Gipp became the defensive Captain. He was a sharp tackler and the one player about whom it could truly be said that nobody ever completed a pass against him. His playing temperament was icy and when he was challenged on the field he operated at his peak, doing what he wanted to do. Wallace, who was a student at Notre Dame during Gipp's time, said he would have made a great quarterback in contemporary pro football.

Gipp never talked to writers. He had no interest in personal publicity and Rock could never get him to pose in a photograph with him. He loved to play, but he hated practice, and he never felt he had to atone for anything he did. He was the first Notre Dame man ever to make Walter Camp's first All-American eleven. Small by contemporary standards, Gipp was 6' 1" and weighed only 185 pounds.

At Notre Dame, Gipp lived in Brownson Hall. He worked as a hasher and table waiter. By 1918, he was living at the Oliver Hotel, where he often spent the evenings playing cards and shooting pool. He lived quietly and had no single close buddy or girl friend. He rarely dated. Study bored him and he often skipped study room. He was pleasant, but never cheerful (Brondfield, 88). In 1918, Gipp shifted from the College of Arts to Law. He missed too many classes and was bounced, but he took an oral exam and passed.

There is no question that Gipp was a strange self-destructive man. I have found no biography of him and what we know comes from biographies of Knute Rockne, a man who loved being a celebrity and cultivated publicity as ardently as Gipp avoided it. In one of his final appearances on the football field, Gipp played against Indiana in 1920 with a broken collarbone. Remember, we are back in the real world here, in a time when players wore no body armor to protect themselves. No shoulder pads. No face masks. Football developed out of rugby and the rules were constantly changing. Forward passes became legal in 1906. Players got numbers for the first time in 1915 in Pittsburgh. It was Rockne's publicity-seeking during the twenties that pushed the game into the national arena. The Fighting Irish won all ten games in 1924 to become National champions. A decade earlier, it was a major achievement to get four or five games played in a season. You didn't fly teams all over the country in jet planes in the teens. It was a train or bus ride and many early games were played in fields that were little better than cow pastures. Mud city.

George Gipp took sick in that 1920 season. A heavy smoker, he got strep throat from playing too hard in the weather and when Rockne visited him in the hospital

Satire is a dying art in this country. People want to be comforted..They want their *lifestyles* affirmed, not criticized!!

Bill Griffith
WEIRDO 24, 1988.

Note that the yearly Almanac published by the Hearst Corporation reports all of the non-events of the Reagan presidency, yet does not consider George Gipp worth mentioning. C. G.

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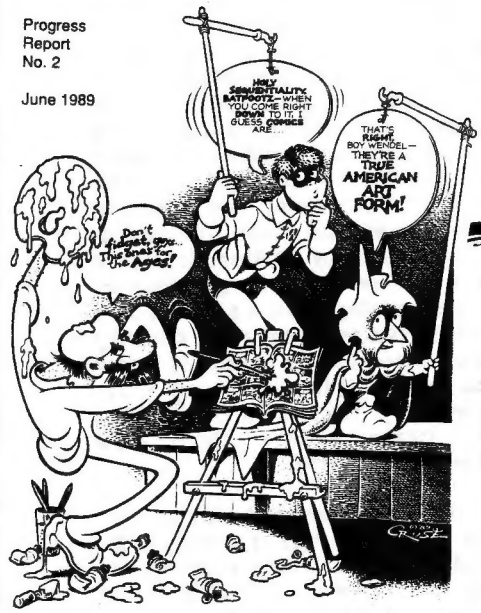
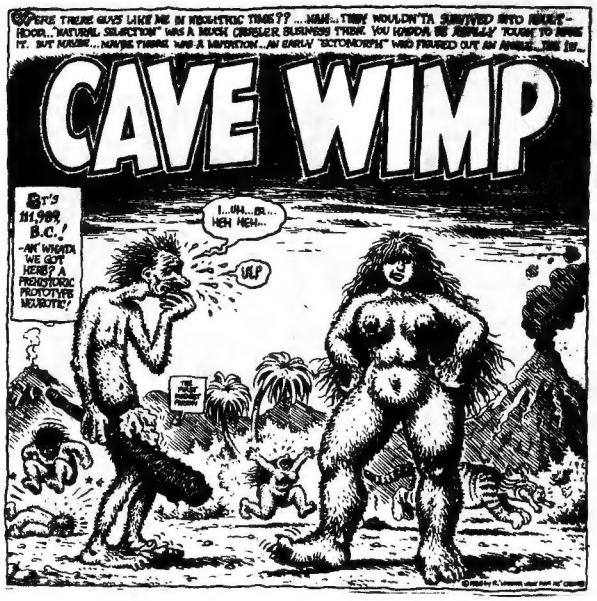
he said that Gipp said *Someday when the going was particularly rough against Army, Rock was to ask the boys to go out and win for Gipp* (Wallace, 87). Gipp died of pneumonia on December 14, 1920. When Notre Dame was up against a tough Army team in Yankee Stadium on November 12, 1928, Rockne gave his famous pep talk at the half, telling the team to go out and win one for the Gipper. It was Jack Chevigny who made the touchdown and said *that one was for the Gipper*. Notre Dame won the game 12-6.

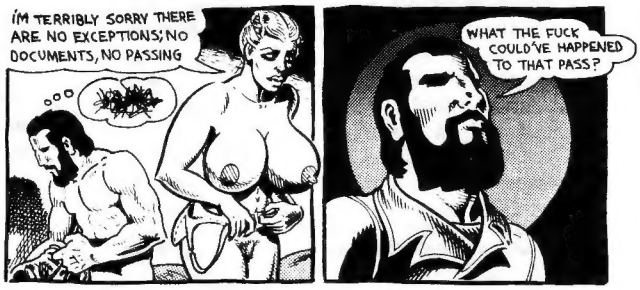
Ronald Reagan played the part of George Gipp in the Hollywood movie KNUTE ROCKNE: ALL-AMERICAN (1940), and while he was president during a dark period in American history it was common for news reporters to attribute to Reagan the fictional exploits of characters in his films. While George Gipp was an inspiration to hundreds of young athletes during his short life, Ronald Reagan was and is a disgraceful hypocrite. Those who have continually reiterated his lies and associated him with Gipp have been willing participants in the farce known as the Reagan Administration. In his 1974 TV MOVIES, Leonard Maltin said the *win it for the Gipper* scene had been cut from all tv prints due to legal complications with real-life Gipper's family.

Be it known that there are people who know the difference between a real athlete and a clown who tries to steal someone else's thunder.

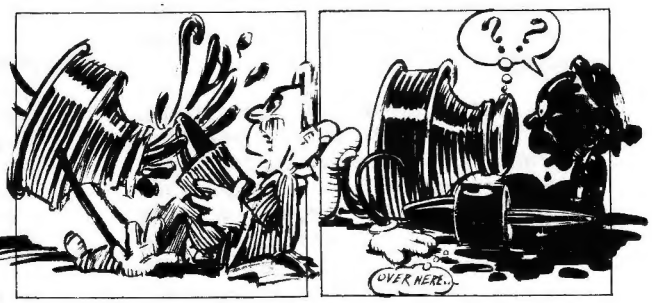

Progress Report No. 2
June 1989
HOLY SEMIOTICALITY, BATPOOTZ—WHEN YOU COME RIGHT DOWN TO IT, I GUESS COMICS ARE...
THAT'S RIGHT, BOY WENDEL—THEY'RE A TRUE AMERICAN ART FORM!
Don't Forget, You're Smart for the Ages!
SAN DIEGO COMIC CON ☆ 1989

COMIX WAVE MINI-SERIES
FRIED BRAINS 27 (Dan Taylor)
WEIRD WABBITS 2 (GARRY HARDMAN)
BABYFAT 65. 50¢/stamp each. CW/ Box 7081, Berkeley, Ca 94707. Special thanks to Garry Hardman for CW & Babyfat logos.





NOW SAFE IN THE HANDS OF NOVA AND SUPPORTERS HE WATCHED HOW HIS ADVERSARIES WOULD COPE WITH HIS ESCAPE...
HAS ANYONE SEEN A STOLEN SCIENTIFIC SPECIMEN ON THE STREETS?
BUT SOON IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE 'MISSING THING' WAS THE BELOVED GURU AND THE GOVERNING UNION BECAME NASTY!
IF YOU ARE HARBORING OR KNOW WHO IS HARBORING THIS 'SLUG-MARTYR' YOU'LL BE DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY !!!!!



COMIX PLUGOLA

EL VIBORA 111, your window into the underground psyche of Spain, is $7 from J. M. Berengueur, Plaza Beatas 3, Barcelona, Spain.*

David Nadel's NEANDERTHAL TIMES 1 is 50¢/st from Comix Wave, Box 7081, Berkeley, CA 94707.

Spread around you are panels from ZAP 12. Some truly amazing work by the original ZAP gang. ZAP began back in 1967 in the brain of Robert Crumb. By the third issue, he had decided to maintain the same group of artists in every issue. The title has passed through several publishers beginning with Apex Novelties and it is now published by Last Gasp Comix out of San Francisco.

I always knew Rick Geary would get more seriously involved in comic *books* and he has with a great children's story THE SECRETS OF THE JUNIOR CARROT PATROL [Dark Horse, 1989]. The story and concepts are attributed to Bob *Flaming Carrot* Burden.

What has Joe Zabel been doing? Well, he's teamed up with Gary Dumm to do a nice DZ. There are two issues of JANUARY MIDNIGHT [$1.50 pp ea, 12175 Valley Lane #203, Garfield Hts, Ohio 44125].Greg Budgett and Gary Dumm collaborated on KYSS OF DEATH and SHOOTY BEAGLE [1.50 pp from Zabel]. The Beagle comic features a dog who closely resembles Brad Caslor's Bob who was a distant cousin of Disney's Pluto. Shooty is the ultimate voyeur and he always gets satisfaction in this funny little nod to pin-up art. Age statement required for all these comix. 18 or over.

Howard Cruse did this cover for the San Diego Con report. The con is August 3-6, 1989, and Howard will be a guest. Information is available from POB 17066, San Diego, CA 92117.

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